Numb. 267

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Qui Genus humanum Ingenio ſuperavit, & omnes
Reſtrinxit Stellas, exortus uti Aerius Sol. Lucr.

From *Thurſday December* 21. to *Saturday December* 23. 1710.

From my own Apartment, December 22.

I Have heard, that it is a Rule among the Conventuals of ſeveral Orders in the *Romiſh* Church, to ſhut themſelves up at a certain Time of the Year, not only from the World in general, but from the Members of their own Fraternity, and to paſs away ſeveral Days by themſelves in ſetling Accounts between their Maker and their own Souls, in cancelling unrepented Crimes, and renewing their Contracts of Obedience for the future. Such ſtated Times for particular Acts of Devotion, or the Exerciſe of certain religious Duties, have been enjoined in all civil Governments, whatever Deity they worſhipped, or whatever Religion they profeſſed. That which may be done at all Times, is often totally neglected and forgotten, unleſs fixed and determined to ſome Time more than another; and therefore, tho' ſeveral Duties may be ſuitable to every Day of our Lives, they are moſt likely to be performed if ſome Days are more particularly ſet apart for the Practice of them. Our Church has accordingly inſtituted ſeveral Seaſons of Devotion, when Time, Cuſtom, Preſcription, and (if I may ſo ſay) the Faſhion it ſelf, call upon a Man to be ſerious and attentive to the great End of his Being.

I have hinted in ſome former Papers, that the greateſt and wiſeſt of Men, in all Ages and Countries, particularly in *Rome* and *Greece*, were renowned for their Piety and Virtue. It is now my Intention to ſhow how thoſe in our own Nation, that have been unqueſtionably the moſt eminent for Learning and Knowledge, were likewiſe the moſt eminent for their Adherence to the Religion of their Country.

I might produce very ſhining Examples from among the Clergy; but becauſe Prieſtcraft is the common Cry of every cavelling empty Scribbler, I ſhall ſhow, that all the Laymen who have exerted a more than ordinary Genius in their Writings, and were the Glory of their Times, were Men whoſe Hopes were filled with Immortality, and the Proſpect of future Rewards, and Men who lived in a dutiful Submiſſion to all the Doctrines of Revealed Religion.

I ſhall in this Paper only inſtance Sir *Francis Bacon*, a Man who for the Greatneſs of Genius, and Compaſs of Knowledge, did Honour to his Age and Country; I could almoſt ſay to humane Nature it ſelf. He poſſeſſed at once all thoſe extraordinary Talents which were divided amongſt the greateſt Authors of Antiquity. He had the ſound, diſtinct, comprehenſive Knowledge, of *Ariſtotle*, with all the beautiful Lights, Graces and Embelliſhments, of *Cicero*. One does not know which to admire moſt in his Writings, the Strength of Reaſon, Force of Style, or Brightneſs of Imagination.

This Author has remarked in ſeveral Parts of his Works, that a thorough Inſight into Philoſophy makes a good Believer, and that a Smattering in it naturally produces ſuch a Race of deſpicable Infidels as the little profligate Writers of the preſent Age, whom (I muſt confeſs) I have always accuſed to my ſelf, not ſo much for their Want of Faith as their Want of Learning.

I was infinitely pleaſed to find among the Works of this extraordinary Man a Prayer of his own compoſing, which, for the Elevation of Thought, and Greatneſs of Expreſſion, ſeems rather the Devotion of an Angel than a Man. His principal Fault ſeems to have been the Exceſs of that Virtue which covers a Multitude of Faults. This betrayed him to ſo great an Indulgence towards his Servants, who made a Corrupt Uſe of it, that it ſtrip'd him of all thoſe Riches and Honours which a long Series of Merits had heaped upon him. But in this Prayer, at the ſame Time that we find him proſtrating himſelf before the great Mercy-Seat, and humbled under Afflictions which at that Time lay heavy upon him, we ſee him ſupported by the Senſe of his Integrity, his Zeal, his Devotion, and his Love to Mankind, which give him a much higher Figure in the Minds of Thinking Men, than that Greatneſs had done from which he was fallen. I ſhall beg Leave to write down the Prayer it ſelf, with the Title to it, as it was found among his Lordſhip's Papers, written in his own Hand; not being able to furniſh my Reader with an Entertainment more ſuitable to this ſolemn Time.

A Prayer or Pſalm made by my Lord Bacon, *Chancellor of* England.

'MOST gracious Lord God, my merciful Father; from my Youth up my Creator, my Redeemer, my Comforter. Thou, O Lord, ſoundeſt and ſearcheſt the Depths and Secrets of all Hearts; Thou acknowledgeſt the Upright of Heart, Thou judgeſt the Hypocrite. Thou pondereſt Men's Thoughts and Doings as in a Balance; Thou meaſureſt their Intentions as with a Line; Vanity and crooked Ways cannot be hid from Thee.

'Remem-

'Remember, O Lord! how thy Servant hath walked before thee; remember what I have first sought, and what hath been principal in my Intentions. I have loved thy Assemblies, I have mourned for the Divisions of thy Church, I have delighted in the Brightness of thy Sanctuary. This Vine which thy Right Hand hath planted in this Nation, I have ever prayed unto Thee, that it might have the first and the latter Rain, and that it might stretch her Branches to the Seas, and to the Floods. The State and Bread of the Poor and Oppressed have been precious in mine Eyes; I have hated all Cruelty and Hardness of Heart; I have (though in a despised Weed) procured the Good of all Men. If any have been my Enemies, I thought not of them, neither hath the Sun almost set upon my Displeasure; but I have been as a Dove, free from Superfluity of Malitiousness. Thy Creatures have been my Books, but thy Scriptures much more. I have sought Thee in the Courts, Fields and Gardens, but I have found Thee in thy Temples.

'Thousands have been my Sins, and Ten Thousands my Transgressions, but thy Sanctifications have remained with me, and my Heart (through thy Grace) hath been an unquenched Coal upon thine Altar.

'O Lord, my Strength! I have since my Youth met with Thee in all my Ways, by thy Fatherly Compassions, by thy comfortable Chastisements, and by thy most visible Providence. As thy Favours have increased upon me, so have thy Corrections; so as Thou hast been always near me, O Lord! And ever as my Worldly Blessings were exalted, so secret Darts from Thee have pierced me; and when I have ascended before Men, I have descended in Humiliation before Thee. And now when I thought most of Peace and Honour, thy Hand is heavy upon me, and hath humbled me according to thy former loving Kindness, keeping me still in thy Fatherly School, not as a Bastard, but as a Child. Just are thy Judgments upon me for my Sins, which are more in Number than the Sands of the Sea, but have no Proportion to thy Mercies; for what are the Sands of the Sea? Earth, Heavens, and all these, are nothing to thy Mercies. Besides my innumerable Sins, I confess before Thee, that I am a Debtor to Thee for the gracious Talent of thy Gifts and Graces, which I have neither put into a Napkin, nor put it (as I ought) to Exchangers, where it might have made best Profit, but misspent it in Things for which I was least fit: So I may truly say, My Soul hath been a Stranger in the Course of my Pilgrimage. Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for my Saviour's Sake, and receive me unto thy Bosom, or guide me in thy Ways.

Advertisements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq; on a large Letter, in Octavo, being almost finished; such as please to subscribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are desired to send their Names to Charles Lilly, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the First and Second Volumes are to be delivered.

*** On Thursday last was published, An Alphabetical LIST of the Knights and Commissioners of Shires, Citizens and Burgesses, elected in the Year 1710. to sit in the Parliament of Great Britain; together with an Alphabet of the Places that have the Privilege of Election, with proper Numbers and Letters for the easy Use thereof. Sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 3 d.

THis is to give Notice, That the Mezzotinto Prints of the Four Indian Kings, done by John Simmons, may be had at John Verelst's at the Rainbow and Dove, the Corner of Ivy-bridge in the Strand; at Old Man's Coffee-house, Charing-Cross; Mr. Davis's in Castle-alley, near the Royal-Exchange; Mr. King's in the Poultry; Mr. Overton's in Fleet-street; Mrs. Peterfield's and Mrs. Lutterell's in Westminster-Hall; Mrs. Sell's next the Play-house in the Hay-market; and at several other Shops in London and Westminster.

*** New Musick just published, A new Set of Tunes for Violins and Hautboys, in 4 Parts. Composed for the Theatre. Price 1 s. 6 d. Likewise the Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick, or the newest Songs made for the Theatre and other Occasions, for December. Price 6 d. Note, The whole Volume of Monthly Collections of Vocal Musick is now published, containing all the Songs, Airs and Catches on several Occasions, in the Year 1710. Price 5 s. Printed for J. Walsh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majesty, at the Harp and Hautboy in Catherine-street in the Strand; and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil near the Royal-Exchange.

THE Sale of the rich BED and HANGINGS, which was seen at Westminster and Drapers Hall, will be drawn the 10th of January next: So all Persons that design to become Adventurers, are desired to take out their Tickets speedily, which are to be had at one Guinea a-piece, with new Proposals, at St. James's and Young Man's Coffee-houses; at Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, at Beauford-Buildings; Mrs. Betly's in Bow-street, Covent-garden; Mr. Flemming's, Goldsmith, against St. Dunstan's Church; Mr. Motteaux in Leadenhall-street, Mr. Nath. Carpenter's, Merchant in Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, who stands Security for the fair Performance; and at the other Places mentioned in the Proposals. Part of the Goods may be seen at the said Mr. Carpenter's and Mrs. Betly's.

AT Mrs. Mortley's India House at the Two Green Canisters on the Pavement in St. Martin's-lane, near Charing-Cross, all Sorts of Indian Goods, laquered Ware, China, Fans, Screens, Pictures, &c. with Hollands, Muslins, Cambricks, fine embroidered and plain short Aprons, and divers other Things, to be disposed of for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Person shall give for them, and the Goods as cheap as for Specie.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Friday the 29th Instant, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at Four in the Afternoon, about 60 Hhds. and 12 Tierces of new excellent French Obrion Clarets of the very last Vintage, consisting of the best Qualities, the entire Cargo of a French Prize lately arrived in the River, and will be landed this Week. Catalogues thereof shall be timely dispersed by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane, between Tower-street and Crouched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Wednesday the 10th of January next, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at 4 in the Afternoon, about 30 Tuns of new excellent French (Prize) Claret, fresh, deep, bright, and of a most curious Flavour, of the best Growths, and of the very last Vintage; 5 Puncheons of French (Prize) Brandy, 4 Tuns of new French (Prize) White Wine, extraordinary good; 28 Barrels of new superfine Pruans, and 22 Chests of very good Soap; the entire Cargoes of two French Prizes brought into Dartmouth by Capt. Daniel Nastell of Guernzey, now in the Custody of Mr. Tho. Plumley, Merchant, in Dartmouth aforesaid: And there shall be exposed to View and Taste the aforementioned Wines, Brandy, Pruans, and Soap, till the Time of Sale. Catalogues shall be timely dispersed. To be sold by Thomas Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane.

NEW Barcelona Wine, choice good, now in the Hands of the Merchant, being the pure Juice of the Grape, and as good as any that hath been imported this Year, to be sold by the Cask and by the Gallon, at 5 s. the Gallon, no less Quantity than a Gallon, lying in a Cellar in Cannon-street under the Sign of the Black Lion, opposite to London-stone Coffee-house. Any Gentlemen that please to come and taste the Wine, will be welcome, whether they buy or not. The Wine will keep several Years in Bottles or Casks. Note, There are Casks and Bottles of all Sorts ready for filling.

INsurance on Marriages: A new Subscription was opened on Thursday last for 1000 l. a weekly Dividend, paying 5 s. for a Policy and Stamps, and 10 s. a Week, on every Thursday or Friday after the 21st of March next ensuing. Persons may also insure on Marriages according to their Ability, either for 500 l. or for 250 l. or for 100 l. and also on Births for 500 l. or for 250 l. or 100 l. where Attendance is given at their Office at the White Lion in King-street near Guild-hall, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from 8 till 12, and from 2 till 5 at Night. Note, The Director will not wait for the filling up of Numbers, but will chuse Trustees, and give Security, within a Month at farthest. Proposals at large may be had at the Office gratis.

WIlliam Clark's Sale of Plate in Queen's-Arms Tavern Court on Ludgate-hill, was intended to have been drawn some Time ago. There being some Tickets left, it is, by the Consent of the Adventurers, put off to the 31st of January next, and then it will certainly be drawn, or Satisfaction given them for their Money. The highest is 20 l. and not Three losing Tickets to a Benefit, and every losing Ticket to have the Value of 1 s. Tickets, at 2 s. 6 d. each, may be had at W. Clark's aforesaid; at Mr. Loveday's, Turner, by Somerset-house in the Strand; at Mr. Hilleard's, Turner, in Bishopsgate-street near Leaden-hall; and at the Places mentioned in the Proposals.

I Anthony James, Shoemaker, in Shoemaker's-Row, Duke's-Place, near the Bakers-Arms, London, was afflicted with a violent Fit of the Cholick and Stone; but by the Blessing of God, and the Preparations of Mr. Moore, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar in Abchurch-lane, London, I have received a perfect Cure of my Cholick, and have had brought away an incredible Number of small Stones and Gravel, with one large Stone: And in Gratuity to the said Mr. Moore (although I paid him for his Medicines) I do acknowledge to the World the Truth of this wonderful Cure. Anthony James.

THE nicest Spanish Blacking for Gentlemen's Shoes ever invented or used, making them look like new, neither daubing the Hands or Stockings, nor having the noisom Stink of Size. All that use it admire it. Sold only at Mr. Hannan's, a Toyshop, at the Three Angels near Foster-Lane in Cheapside, at 1 s. 6 d. a Pot.